

A.

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning at p. 5, l. 9 as follows:

a1 --The hardware resource manager 18 is responsible for allocating hardware resources to system applications so that the least available and most functional of the available hardware resources 14 are not allocated until all options for using more available and/or less functional hardware resources for an application are exhausted. Details as to how the hardware resource manager 18 allocates hardware resources are given in co-pending application serial no. 09/586,120 (Motorola dkt. no. GEO4562) entitled Dynamic Hardware Resource Manager For Software-Defined Communications System, assigned to Motorola Corporation and incorporated herein by reference. The hardware resource manager 18 allocates hardware resources to an application based on characteristics, or attributes, of available hardware resource such as, for example, resource capabilities, name, type, flavor, shared, version, and address characteristics stored in a hardware specification maintained on the system platform 12 and updated as hardware resources are added or removed, as well as on configuration characteristics tracked and generated by a hardware resource identifier 19. The hardware resource identifier 19 of the present invention then uses this characteristic hardware resource information to generate a hardware specification, graphically illustrated as an abstract resource specification (78 in FIG. 2), that identifies hardware resource constraints and interdependencies and that is used by the hardware resource manager 18 to designate certain of the resources 14 as allocated resources 15.--